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SEVERAL KILLED IN FIRE IN LEXINGTON HOTEL IN RICHMOND THIS MORNING

C. C. BBENTON IS HURT

The Fire Resulted in \$150,000 Property Loss Several Buildings Adjacent to the Hotel Were Destroyed; a Number of North Carolinians Were Guests in the Hotel; Mr. Benton Was Hurt When He Jumped From an Upstairs Window.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 7.—At least three persons are dead and thirty injured and a property loss estimated at \$150,000 according to police reports as the result of a fire which early today destroyed the Lexington hotel and gutted four adjacent buildings.

At 12:00 o'clock firemen had not penetrated the main portion of the hotel ruins where it is believed most of the victims' bodies would be found. A high brick wall facing 12th street it was feared might fall any moment. Efforts are being made to disintegrate the foundation of the wall and cause it to crumble after which search could be made for the bodies.

Seventy two persons were guests in the hotel and it is believed the death toll will reach between 15 and 20. A search of the burned hotel began at 10 o'clock this morning.

The known dead are Hiram S. Austin, Fincastle, Va., M. J. Fox, Williamsport, Pa., who died on the way to a hospital; C. M. Thomas, sheriff of Albemarle county who died of internal injuries and a broken back. The list of injured included: J. E. Ford of Rocky Mount, N. C., who suffered lacerations and Jas. Roberson of North Carolina, an injured back, J. D. Overton, of Nashville, N. C., is reported among those missing.

"I was at the desk when I saw the smoke and fire creeping up the fire escape from the basement," said R. D. Fray clerk of the Lexington Hotel who was on duty when the blaze broke out. "I grabbed the telephone but it was out of order. Men had been working on the switch board. I was therefore delayed slightly in sending in the alarm. I told the boy to get upstairs and notify as many of the guests as had not been awakened. The smoke and heat was intense and I do not know how many he was able to arouse. When I got back from turning in the alarm the flames were roaring up the elevator shaft. It seems a few sought the fire escape. Most of the women appeared at the windows and several of the guests started jumping down. I do not know how many were injured. There were (Continued on Page Six.)

MISSING BUTLER BELIEVED FOUND

A Well Known Motion Picture Actress Whose Name Was Not Revealed is Being Questioned.

Los Angeles, Feb. 7.—A telegraphic warrant charging Edward F. Sands alias Edward Fitzstrathmore a former butler to William Desmond Taylor with the murder of the film director in his apartments was issued by the Los Angeles police department late last night and wired to the Constable at Carlin Nevada according to information received by the Los Angeles Examiner this morning.

The police acted it was stated following the receipt of a telegram from the constable that he had under surveillance there a man whose description was said to have answered to that of Sands.

Another angle of the case involved the long and grueling examination as the detectives described it of a well known motion picture actress at her home here. They declined to name her but indicated she is one of a number who have indicated an intimate friendship with Taylor.

While these developments were in progress preparations were being made for the funeral of the dead director this afternoon.

PARLIAMENT IS STUDYING TREATY

King George in a Speech From the Throne Took Occasion to Pay Tribute to Conference.

London, Feb. 7.—The Imperial parliament which was prorogued early in November to await action on the Irish treaty was reopened today with the reading of the speech from the throne by King George.

Regarding the Irish treaty the king said that parliament would be called on to consider such measures as may be necessary to give effect to agreement. He also touched on the negotiations for a pact with France to guarantee action in the event of "an unprovoked attack" by Germany and paid a high tribute to the Washington conference.

BANKERS TO MEET IN WILSON IN APRIL

Rocky Mount, Feb. 6.—The membership meeting of group two of the North Carolina Bankers association will be held at Wilson April 12, according to decision reached at a session of the group's executive committee held here Saturday evening at the call of Chairman Frank F. Fagan. The second group includes eight counties of this immediate section of the state, these being Greene, Halifax, Northampton, Bertie, Edgecombe, Wilson, Lenoir and Warren, while the banks of this city are also included.

In addition to fixing the time and place of the group meeting which is supposed to be held prior to the state convention in Pinehurst in the spring, the executive committee discussed and made tentative plans for the program for the membership meeting, the various details being left in the hands of Chairman Fagan.

HARDING WANTS MEASURE TO PROVIDE FUNDS

Washington, Feb. 6.—President Harding informed Republican congressional leaders today that whatever soldiers' bonus bill was enacted should carry with it a provision for raising the revenue to finance the bonus. Various means of obtaining the money were discussed but it was said that no conclusions were reached.

It was agreed at a White House conference lasting more than an hour and a half that the problem of finances should be considered jointly by majority members of the house ways and means committee and the senate finance committee. Whatever agreement is reached, it was stated, would be submitted to the President with a view to an accord between the executive and legislative branches before the bill is submitted to the house.

WEATHER.

For North Carolina fair tonight and Wednesday, colder tonight, northeast gales on the coast diminishing tonight.

GENERAL NFWS

Alexander Howat and August Dorcy, deposed officers of the miners union, have been released from jail under a peace bond under which they agree to call no more strikes in the Kansas coal fields.

Roscoe Arbuckle will go on trial March 13 for the third time on a charge of manslaughter in connection with the death of Miss Virginia Rappe. Both previous trials ended in disagreements.

Unemployment decreased sharply in the United States during January, the department of labor reports, stating that 4 out of 65 cities and industrial centers had 4.2 per cent more workers on pay rolls, Jan. 31 than on Dec. 31.

WATTS DEMANDS THAT EMPLOYEES DELIVER GOODS

HAS RELEASED TWO

J. C. Little and W. J. Barnes and J. L. Ball Have Been Made Permanent Receivers of the Central Bank and Trust Company; Depositors May Bring Suit.

(By Max Abernethy.)

Raleigh, Feb. 7.—Commissioner of Revenue Alston D. Watts today verified the report carried in this correspondence last week that he had called for the resignation of Deputy Commissioner T. W. Fenner and Albert Hauser, effective March 1, next, and the commissioner also makes the further announcement that he thinks will be interesting in some quarters. It is that deputy commissioners he has recently appointed, about 20 (Continued on Page Six.)

LICENSE ISSUED.

License has been issued for the marriage of J. E. Jones of Edgecombe county and Letha Lancaster of Tolson township.

SNOW MELTING.

Henderson, Feb. 7.—Four inches of snow fell here last night, but is rapidly melting under a slowly rising temperature.

MARKETS

COTTON.

New York, Feb. 7.—Cotton futures opened steady, March 16.45, May 16.20, July 15.88, Oct. 15.35, Dec. 15.35.

New York, Feb. 7.—The cotton market opened at a decline of 7 to 19 points owing to continued depression in Liverpool and unfavorable Manchester on the call with Liverpool a moderate seller of near months while there was some spot house selling.

N. Y. COTTON OPENED

Mar. 16.57, May 16.30, July 15.92, Oct. 15.38, Dec. 15.36.

N. Y. COTTON CLOSED

Mar. 16.59, May 16.30, July 15.88, Oct. 15.35, Dec. 15.28.

12 O'CLOCK MARKET

Mar. 16.60, May 16.38, July 16.01, Oct. 15.45, Dec. 15.36.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Sterling 433 3-4, Francs 844, Lire 473, Marks 49 1-2, Spots, Wilson market 15c.

LIVERPOOL OPENED

Mar. 9.29, May 9.28, July 9.26, Oct. 9.01.

LIVERPOOL CLOSED

Mar. 9.21, May 9.21, July 9.18, Oct. 8.93.

CHICAGO GRAIN OPENED

Wheat, May 1.30, July 1.12, Corn, May 58 1-2, July 61, Oats, 40 5-8, July 42.

CHICAGO GRAIN CLOSED

Wheat, May 1.28 5-8, July 1.11 1-2, Corn, May 58, July 60 1-2, Oats, May 40 1-4, July 41 5-8.

12 O'CLOCK MARKET

Wheat, May 1.30, July 1.12, Corn, May 58 1-2, July 60 5-8, Oats, May 40, July 42.

STOCKS.

New York, Feb. 7.—With few exceptions the stock market made further substantial gains at the active opening of today's session. The junior rails, independent steels and oils, again led the advance. Erie first preferred rose 1 1-4 points and the accumulation of St. Paul Preferred, New Haven and Rock Island was in progress. An early rise of 1 3-4 points in Gulf State Steel was soon increased to 2 3-4 points.

WORLD WAITS TO SEE HOW SENATE HANDLES TREATIES

PRESIDENT OPTIMISTIC

He Stands for Peace by Moral Rather Than Physical Force, and Says "Justice is Better Served in Conference of Peace Than in Conflict at Arms."

(By David Lawrence.)

(Copyright 1922 by the Daily Times.)

Washington, Feb. 6.—President Harding today turns the policy of America back—some people will say forward—to the power of moral rather than physical force.

This change—and Mr. Harding avowed it proudly in the concluding speech of the Arms conference—means that henceforth the argument that the best way to prevent war is to prepare for it with military and naval strength will be abandoned and the Republican Administration of today, including the Congress of tomorrow, will revert to the days before 1917 when reliance on moral justice was misunderstood pacifism, when the phrase "too proud to fight" unfortunately conveyed to war-impassioned minds an impression of physical timidity.

"I once believed in armed preparedness," said President Harding to the Arms Conference, "I advocated it. But I have come now to believe there is a better preparedness in a public mind and a world opinion made ready to grant justice precisely as it exacts it. And justice is better served in conferences of peace than in conflict at arms."

The foregoing quotation is the most significant paragraph of the closing address of Mr. Harding. As a mark of future pathways in American policy, it is of far-reaching importance.

It was Mr. Harding's associates in the United States Senate who bitterly attacked President Wilson for his refusal in December, 1914, to yield to the pressure for armed preparedness. Mr. Wilson's belief that moral force would triumph was tenaciously held only to be abandoned in the spring of 1917 with a program of preparedness which preceded the outbreak of hostilities with Germany.

Now that the war is over and the pendulum has swung back to moral force, when indeed the Versailles covenant is defeated in the same American Senate because of its implications of physical force, the announcement again by an American President of his belief in moral force and his abandonment of the idea of armed preparedness is not an exhibition of American inconsistency. It is merely a reversion to an original desire that the world be ruled by moral justice instead of physical coercion.

Again Mr. Harding hopes as did Mr. Wilson before the war clouds with Germany gathered that America need not prepare for war. Again America asks the other nations to abandon the theory of armed preparedness which developed militarism in Germany and brought on the most destructive war of history. Again America points a finger of warning to France with her large standing army, that peace is better attained by moral suasion than armed conflict.

Except for a general expression of hope that conferences like that held at Washington may again be held at appropriate times, there was no plea for a rigid association of nations, no formula for a league of nations to substitute the one created at Versailles. The President is treading cautiously. He doesn't want the debate in the Senate to be complicated by extraneous affairs. He is driving hard now for ratification and the probabilities are that until the treaties are approved by a two-thirds vote of the American Senate, the decision of the United States government on the par-

(Continued on page 6)

HARDING SUSPENDS WORK ON VESSELS SOON TO BE SCRAP

ORDER HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR

Suspension of Additional Fortification on American Possessions in the Pacific Final Order Will Await Ratification of Treaty.

Washington, Feb. 7.—President Harding will order suspended all work on vessels now building which are destined for the scrap heap under the naval treaty but will issue no final order for discontinuance of the work until the treaty is actually ratified it was said today at the White House.

The President it was stated already has ordered suspension on additional fortifications on the Island of Guam and likewise further developments under way in the Philippines taking his action in view of clause in the treaty fixing the status quo of those Pacific Islands belonging to the United States.

TRAPPED BY A SHARK AND KILLED NEAR SYDNEY.

London, Feb. 5.—While swimming in the sea at Coogee, a seaside resort near Sydney, Australia, Michael Coghlan, aged 18 years, was attacked by a shark and both arms were almost severed, says a Reuter dispatch from Sydney.

A returned soldier, Jack Chalmers, swam to the rescue and dragged Coghlan from the shark's jaws. Eye-witnesses assisted Coghlan on the shore, but he died on the beach in view of thousands of horrified spectators.

INDICTED FOR DYEING CAT

New York, Feb. 7.—Miss Margaret Owen, 26, a singer has her freedom today because she has promised Magistrate Hattling she will never again dye her cats to harmonize with her house draperies or the clothing she wears.

Miss Owen was hailed before Magistrate Hattling when representatives of the society for prevention of cruelty to animals testified she had dyed a valuable pet cat blue to match the draperies in her home. The animal died the witnesses declared.

FUNERAL SERVICES

Funeral services for Mr. John C. Morris, who died Sunday in Jacksonville, Fla., were conducted at the Maplewood cemetery here this afternoon at one o'clock. Rev. J. E. Stuart officiated.

Mr. Morris was 54 years of age. He is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Gaston Watson and Mrs. J. D. Batts, both of Wilson. His wife died a number of years ago.

Mr. Morris formerly lived in Wilson and was well-known here.

SUICIDE MAY BE EVELYN THAW

Washington, Feb. 7.—Having found a marked resemblance between the features of a woman whose body was found yesterday in the Potomac river and photographs of Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, former actress who was recently reported to have disappeared from her New York home, Washington police today asked police authorities of New York to co-operate in efforts to identify the body.

New York, Feb. 7.—Finding of a body in the Potomac said to resemble that of Evelyn Nesbit Thaw today recalled the fact that last October she had attempted suicide by poison.

Recently she was evicted from a tea room she had been running in the upper tenderloin district. Then she dropped from sight.

ACTRESS ADMITS SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH WM. TAYLOR

SANDS IS SOUGHT

And Endearing Note from Mary Miles Minter to Taylor Was Found Among the Dead Man's Possession; the Actress Had Known the Director for Two Years.

Los Angeles, Feb. 7.—Police announced today no warrant on a murder charge had been issued against Edward F. Sands, former butler secretary, and declared to be the most important witness sought in connection with the mysterious murder of Wm. Desmond Taylor, noted motion picture director.

Los Angeles, Feb. 7.—A scented note dropped from one of Taylor's books while police detectives were making examination of his effects according to the Los Angeles Examiner. It was on the butterfly monogrammed stationery of Mary Miles Minter.

It read as follows:

"Dearest: I love you—I love you—I love you."

X X X X X X X (Kisses). Yours always—Mary."

The last "X" was two inches in height followed by an exclamation point an inch in height.

Mary Miles Minter did not deny authorship of the letter according to the Examiner. "I did love Wm. Taylor," she said, "I loved him deeply and tenderly with all the admiration a young girl gives to a man of the poise and culture of Mr. Taylor." Taylor and Miss Minter met at Santa Barbara two years ago.

LIVE STOCK PRICES

GOING UP.
Chicago, Feb. 7.—Advancing prices reached a new mile stone in live stock today with \$10 a hundred weight for hogs. This is a \$2.10 gain since last November.

GEN. METTS IN

RESERVE CORPS.
Washington, Feb. 7.—Secretary Weeks announced today among those selected as officers in the reserve corps was Gen. Van B. Metts of Raleigh, N. C.

RUSSELL'S TRIAL IS SET FOR MAY

The Governor Has Procured Copies of Miss Burkhead's Statements and is Studying Them.

Jackson, Miss., Feb. 7.—The \$100,000 damage suit filed against Gov. Lee M. Russell by Miss Frances Burkhead of New Orleans alleging seduction will be called for trial at the May term of court.

Copies of Miss Burkhead's statement were procured by Governor Russell from the court clerk last night and he was in conference with attorneys.

Miss Burkhead is in New Orleans.

SWINDLERS NAME BIG FIGURES

Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Feb. 7.—A ledger seized in the raid on the headquarters of an alleged band of wire tappers and confidence men here Friday and introduced as evidence at the preliminary hearing of dozen or more persons under arrest contained the names of 105 persons and opposite each amounts varying from \$6,000 to \$175,000. Officials were unable to say whether it was the results of swindles or part of paraphernalia to impress customers.